

TELEGRAM

10/20/78

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CHARGE TO

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FROM	AmEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES	CLASSIFICATION	SECRET UNCLASSIFIED
NO. 11652:	N/A		
TAGS:	SHUM, MASS, ETRD, AR		
SUBJECT:	Spare Parts Embargo and Its Effect on Search and Rescue Operations		
ACTION:	SECSTATE WASHDC		
	INFO: CNO WASHDC USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ		
AMB		BUENOS AIRES	8359
DCM			
POL			
DAO			
MILGRP			
CONGEN			
CHRON			
<p>SUMMARY. We are sufficiently concerned about Argentine Search and Rescue capability that we suggest legislation be sought to permit us to offer equipment useful in this field. END SUMMARY</p> <p>1. We are concerned that an element of our human rights policy might create an unfortunate situation in which Argentina could not respond to a recognized and legitimate international responsibility: Search and Rescue.</p> <p>2. Argentine Search and Rescue (SAR) capability is already adversely affected by our withholding spare parts for Argentine Navy P-2 and S-2 aircraft. Members of the Argentine Navy have told us in some detail of problems with lack of oil seals for the engines of the P-2 aircraft (ref IR 6 804 0454-78). Navy men have described their</p>			
DRAFTED BY:	DCM: MChaplin/	DRAFTING DATE	10-20-78
		TEL. EXT.	201
		CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVE	DCM: MChaplin

REARANCES:

DAO: Col. MacDonald (draft)
MILGRP: Col. Russell (draft)
POL: Wm. Hallman (Draft)

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4-12-78
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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part ☒ In Full **DECONTROL**

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

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difficulties in carrying out SAR operations because of
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the resulting limits on the range of these aircraft.

GOA was involved in one SAR response in April 1978 at the request of the USG and the Italian Government (see State 87008) in which the limited range of their P-2 became a factor. We know of at least one other recent event when the Argentine Navy P-2s responded to a distress signal by an American vessel.

3. The P-2 is the primary Argentine SAR aircraft. It is also their primary Anti-Submarine Warfare aircraft, so its mission is not limited to safety of life at sea. The S-2E aircraft is also used for SAR missions, but is less effective because of its shorter range and lack of sophisticated radar.

4. It seems increasingly possible that the Argentine Navy may be unable to respond effectively to a distress call from a vessel off Argentina because of lack of spare parts for the P-2. Should this happen and particularly if there should be loss of life as a result, we can expect that the US prohibition of exports of spare parts to the Argentine Navy would be publicized. The P-2 spare parts case is not unique; there are other ~~XXXX~~ transportation systems, such as the aircraft and helicopters used in the Antarctic -- frequently by US nationals

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4-12-76

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or officials -- which also have a major life saving role.

5. Embassy recommends that the Department seek legislation permitting discretionary sales to the GOA of spare parts on the munitions list where a significant domestic or international safety role would otherwise be adversely affected. DECONTROL UPON ~~RECEIPT~~ RECEIPT.

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